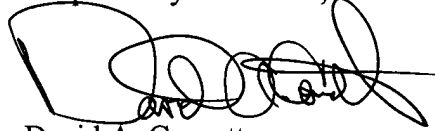


### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests the amendment of the claims of the application as indicated herein. It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that are provided for in the Fee Transmittal accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Please contact me by telephone at my direct extension, (404) 881-7846, if you have any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Cornett  
Registration No. 48,417

**Customer No. 00826**  
**ALSTON & BIRD LLP**  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000  
Tel Atlanta Office (404) 881-7000  
Fax Atlanta Office (404) 881-7777

"Express Mail" mailing label number EV 211241229 US  
Date of Deposit January 9, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Shana Moore